



BREMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Severe Child Abuse Causes Death of 22-Month-Old

(Bremerton, WA) - Bremerton Police Detectives arrested the father of a 22-month-old toddler on Thursday following a four-week investigation. Telenise "Junior" Aunai, a 27-year-old Bremerton man, was arrested and booked into the Kitsap County Jail on the charges of Assault of a Child in the First Degree and Murder in the Second Degree. The fiancé of Aunai, Tina Maae, a 33-year-old Bremerton woman was also arrested on the same charges.

Detectives were called in the early morning hours on July 24th by Emergency Room staff at St. Michaels Medical Center in Silverdale. Staff reported the 22-month-old had been transported to the hospital unresponsive but did have a pulse and heart rate. Medical staff immediately found the child covered "Head to Toe" in bruises. Medical staff tried extensively with efforts to revive the child, but she died at 0352hrs that morning.

Detectives immediately began to investigate and learned there were three other children residing in the family home in the 1900 block of Perry Avenue. Investigators learned Aunai and Maae gained custody of all four children in March of 2021. The investigation revealed all four children suffered repeated physical abuse since March. Signs of physical abuse to include marks and bruising were found on the children. Two of the children were forensically interviewed and disclosed systemic patterns of abuse over the time living with Aunai and Maae. The three surviving children were immediately removed from the family home and placed into protective custody.

The Kitsap County Coroner's Office investigation found the cause of death of the 22-month-old was due to multiple blunt force trauma to her body, that was intentionally inflicted by another person. The manner of death was classified as Homicide.

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